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We wanted to share with you the following press release and written testimony of Vince Ryan, County Attorney, who is in DC today. I have shared it with Dr. Armendariz also. Mr. Ryan was invited to testify about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. Please feel free to share with all those involved in the project.

Best wishes and thank you.

Best wishes,
Snehal R. Patel
Chief, Environmental Regulatory Section
Harris County Attorney's Office



Vince Ryan
Harris County Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 15, 2011

**COUNTY ATTORNEY VINCE RYAN TO DISCUSS SAN JACINTO RIVER
SUPERFUND SITE BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT**

Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney, is scheduled to testify today before the U. S. House Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy. The hearing, entitled “Environmental Regulations, the Economy, and Jobs”, will begin at 1 p.m. Washington time in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Ryan will describe the collaborative relationship between Harris County, the responsible companies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the cleanup of the San Jacinto River Dioxin Waste Pits Superfund Site.

The San Jacinto Waste Pits is a partially submerged superfund site located north of the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the San Jacinto River. During the late 1960s, pits next to the river were filled with dioxin-laden paper waste from a nearby paper mill. Over time, due to local subsidence, the San Jacinto River flowed into and through these pits spreading dioxin, one of the deadliest chemicals in the world.

Ryan will report that the Office of the Harris County Attorney has worked with the EPA to create a greater role for local government than is typically experienced in superfund

cases. The Office assisted in creating a Memorandum of Understanding between Harris County and the EPA that has led to collaborative efforts between the County, State, and the responsible companies to develop a plan to contain the dioxin and raise community awareness about the dangers of dioxin contamination.

“Providing healthy communities in which our residents can work and strive towards a better quality of life with cleaner air and water quality remain a high priority for all of us,” Ryan said.

A copy of Mr. Ryan’s testimony is attached.

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